

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 514

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of David K. "Pat" Wilson of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. David K. "Pat" Wilson, a renowned Nashville businessman and civic leader and former chairman and life member of the Vanderbilt University Board of Trust; and

WHEREAS, Pat Wilson was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities, and his passing marks the loss of "one of the greatest community leaders" Nashville has ever known; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson rarely took personal credit for the success of the various civic projects with which he was involved; still, he is legendary for his important role in helping improve race relations during the 1960s as president of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and in establishing the Metro Nashville Airport Authority; and

WHEREAS, aptly described as "a towering leader of our city," Pat Wilson was a devoted and generous patron of the arts, as evidenced by his work in the founding of the Tennessee Performing Arts Center; and

WHEREAS, a 1941 graduate of Vanderbilt University, Mr. Wilson was a loyal servant and proficient fundraiser for his alma mater, and he played an essential role in forging a stronger connection between Vanderbilt and the greater Nashville community; and

WHEREAS, he was elected to Vanderbilt's Board of Trust in 1963, and served with distinction as its chairman from 1981 to 1991; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson had been involved in every Vanderbilt fundraising campaign in the past four decades; from 1970 to 1974, he served as chairman of the Harold S. Vanderbilt Challenge, which raised \$10 million, and from 1976 to 1981, he was chairman of the Centennial

Campaign, which began with a goal of raising \$150 million, but actually raised a total of \$165 million; and

WHEREAS, he also served on the steering committee of the 1990s Campaign for Vanderbilt, which raised more than \$557 million, and was a member of the planning committee for the Shape the Future Campaign; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of Mr. Wilson's many valuable contributions to the institution, Wilson Hall on Vanderbilt's campus is named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Vanderbilt Chancellor Gordon Gee has said of Mr. Wilson and his enduring legacy: "It would be impossible to overstate Pat Wilson's impact on Vanderbilt, and on Nashville. His commitment to the university touched, literally, every corner and every aspect of this campus, from buildings to scholarships to faculty chairs."; and

WHEREAS, in addition to graduating from Vanderbilt, Pat Wilson attended Harvard Business School before volunteering for the U.S. Navy during World War II and serving in the Pacific theater in a naval construction battalion; and

WHEREAS, shortly before entering the Navy, he married his first wife, the late Anne Potter Wilson, the daughter of Nashville philanthropists Justin and Valere Potter; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson returned to Nashville in 1946, and co-founded Cherokee Insurance Company, which evolved into Cherokee Equity Corporation; he served astutely as its chairman until his passing; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his meritorious service to Vanderbilt and his other community endeavors, he was a director of several banks and other companies, including the former First American Bank of Nashville; he had also served as national finance committee chairman of the Republican National Committee; and

WHEREAS, a true benefactor of quality education, he was chairman of Cumberland University and a trustee of Montgomery Bell Academy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, this extraordinary public servant and gentleman is survived by his wife, Paula R. Wilson, and three sons, William Wilson, Blair Wilson, and Justin Wilson, former Deputy

for Policy to Governor Don Sundquist and former Commissioner of Environment and Conservation; and

WHEREAS, Pat Wilson truly leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional businessman, civic leader, public servant, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of David K. "Pat" Wilson, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character as a community leader and businessman and his many noteworthy contributions to the Nashville community and especially to his beloved alma mater, Vanderbilt University.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Wilson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.